

Iowa journalism, defending the craft and defending journalists.

While Dean will officially retire from "Iowa Press" this month, I look forward to his return for special occasions and live broadcasts.

Dean is the epitome of Iowa nice: a humble, but bold Iowan putting the interests of his fellow Iowans over himself, dedicated to truth, to his craft, and dedicated to service, dedicated to his fellow Iowans. Dean is a very good and true man.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dean Borg on his distinguished career and wishing him the best in his retirement.

Dean, I will miss you. If I don't see you soon, I will see you at the Iowa State Fair.

□ 1015

DANGERS OF REPEALING THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to put people before politics. As we speak, the Senate is moving to strip millions of families of their healthcare coverage and replace it with, well, nothing.

Now, I know that some of my colleagues ran on a platform of repealing the Affordable Care Act, and now they feel boxed in by politics. But let's be very clear about this. The political stakes of repealing the Affordable Care Act without a replacement are nothing compared to the terrible human cost.

I would like to share with my colleagues the experience of Suzie Clayton, my constituent from North Canaan, Connecticut. "The ACA had a huge, positive impact on my life," Suzie wrote to me last week. Because Suzie is a breast cancer survivor, a pre-existing condition, it was nearly impossible for her to get decent healthcare coverage before the ACA.

"All that we had put away in retirement funds, nearly \$70,000, had to be tapped in order to cover our health costs," she wrote. If it weren't for the coverage she gained through the Affordable Care Act, she and her husband would have lost everything they had worked for, quite likely, including their home.

Instead, with the ACA, her family is once again saving for retirement, completing some overdue home repairs, and getting their medical needs taken care of at an affordable price. All of that will go away if this House follows through on its political crusade to wipe away the Affordable Care Act without a replacement.

Mr. Speaker, there are millions of Suzie Claytons in this country, millions of people who will lose their homes, lose their savings, and some will even lose their lives if this Congress repeals the Affordable Care Act without a replacement.

In my home State of Connecticut alone, 180,000 people who have gained coverage since the ACA was implemented stand to lose their health care. That includes 43,000 children.

Think about that for a moment. If Congress repeals the ACA and doesn't replace it with anything, 43,000 children just in my State will lose their health coverage. When those children get sick, too many of their parents will be faced with a heart-wrenching choice: bankrupt the family to pay for their child's medical care or go without the health services their child needs to get better. All of us here who are parents know that that isn't really a choice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues who are beating the drum for wholesale elimination of the Affordable Care Act: How can you, in good conscience, take away the health care from 43,000 children in my State just to score a political point? How can you throw our healthcare system into chaos just because you are in a political jam?

Let's work together. Let's work together to improve our healthcare system. Let's forge a sensible, bipartisan approach to lower healthcare costs and ensure access to quality care for everyone.

The politics of ObamaCare, no matter how fraught and divisive, should not, must not take priority over the well-being of the American people that we are here to serve.

WOMEN'S MARCH ON WASHINGTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, let me tell you where I will not be on Inauguration Day. I will not be here or outside at the inauguration ceremony. I will be in Washington late that evening because the event that I am going to is on January 21. It is the Women's March on Washington.

You can get more information on Facebook, which is how I heard about it, or should I say, how my wife, Soraida, heard about it. I said to her a little after the election: You know, honey, I don't think I can go to D.C. and watch Donald Trump get sworn in.

And she said: Oh, you are going to D.C., just not for that. And she told me about the Women's March. She said: You and I are going together.

Now, I can already hear the phones ringing in my office with people calling to say: Oh, you Democrats are sore losers and you just hate Republicans.

No. I went to George Bush's inauguration and I work with Republicans all the time. Just read Breitbart, which seems to write an article anytime I even glance favorably at a Republican colleague.

But this is different. I knew that George W. Bush and I would disagree on many issues from trade to health care, to the war in Iraq, but I never thought that George W. Bush was trying to make my own country hostile to

me personally, to my wife, to my daughters, to my grandson. I never felt he was a threat to the Nation that I love so deeply and have served now for more than a quarter of a century.

The reason that I am not going is that I cannot bring myself to justify morally or intellectually the immense power we are placing in that man's hands.

I could not look at my wife, my daughters, or my grandson in the eye if I sat there and attended as if everything that the candidate said about the women, about the Latinos, the Blacks, the Muslims or any of the other things he said in those speeches and tweets, and that all of that is okay or erased from our collective memory.

We all heard the tape when Donald Trump was bragging—bragging—about grabbing women by their private parts without their consent. It is something I just can't unhear, bragging to that guy on TV that he would grab women below the belt, as if that was hitting on them. Sorry. It is never okay. It is never just locker room talk. It is offensive and, if he ever actually did it, it is a crime.

I hang out with Republicans, with Republican-elected officials in an actual locker room in the Rayburn Building, and if they ever started talking like that, I wouldn't just walk away. I would tell them to their faces that they are wrong, and I wouldn't allow it to go unnoticed or dismissed as normal or excusable. I don't know a Republican colleague of mine in this body who would let that type of comment just slide as if it were just okay.

So that is why I will hold hands with my wife and march with the women on January 21 in D.C. And that is why I am calling on all of my progressive allies to come and march with the women as well. If you care about a living wage, come and join the women. If you care about the environment, come and join the march. We know as a society that when women win, we all win. So I plan to be there.

It is deeply personal and deeply patriotic to march, to make my opinions known by walking with my allies arm in arm. I want to be able to look at my two beautiful Latina daughters and my beautiful half-Puerto Rican, half-Mexican, but 100 percent American grandson, Luis Andres, in the eye with a clear conscience.

When the new President denigrates Latinos or Mexicans or immigrants as drug dealers and criminals, I want to be able to say that I did not condone or allow that type of speech to go mainstream. That was not normalized on my watch.

Because the future President said that the American-born children of immigrants were not capable of being American judges, I cannot sit there as if this inauguration is okay and I forgave him.

I am deeply honored to return to the U.S. Congress, and I want to thank the people of the Fourth Congressional District. My constituents knew that when

they voted for me, I would be a fighter; and I don't intend to let them down.

If the new President comes for the Muslims, I will be a Muslim. If they come for Planned Parenthood, I will stand with Planned Parenthood. When they deny climate science, I will make my voice heard.

I will use whatever peaceful means available to make sure the words and the actions of our new President do not become the new mainstream and normal in America.

That, Mr. Speaker, is why I will not be here for Inauguration Day and why I will be marching with my wife and with a million women from across this country.

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT—DO NO HARM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise not as a Member of Congress, but as a doctor. When I graduated medical school and took that oath, there are two core ethics that we take when we take that oath: to do good. And that is exactly what we tried to do when this body passed the Affordable Care Act. It was about doing good. It was about giving people basic access to health care. That is a good thing.

The Affordable Care Act is not perfect, but let's keep doing good. Let's fix it. Let's address the cost of health care. Let's make sure people can afford their medications. That is doing good.

Another core ethic that we take when we enter the profession of medicine as a physician is to do no harm. If this body repeals the Affordable Care Act, we are going to harm 20 million Americans that now have access to health care that didn't have it prior to the Affordable Care Act. We shouldn't do harm.

Let me put it into real context. I am a primary care internist. My wife is also a primary care internist. You can tell we have exciting conversations at our house. I was asking her the other day what the Affordable Care Act meant to her as a physician, and she was sharing a story of a patient that she had cared for for years.

This was a patient that had diabetes and hypertension, high blood pressure. We know these are silent killers. If you don't control your diabetes, if you don't control your blood pressure, it can have devastating consequences leading to heart attacks, leading to strokes. It is one of the leading causes of death in America. But if you control it, you can prevent all of these illnesses and people can live a normal, healthy life.

So my wife—she is a very good doctor—had her patient under good control. The patient stopped coming in to see her—maybe the patient moved away or something happened—for a couple of years. And then about 2 years ago, the patient came back in. Once

she came in, her blood sugars, her diabetes was out of control; her blood pressure was out of control.

My wife looked at this patient and just said: Well, what happened? How come you stopped taking your diabetes medicine? How come you stopped taking your blood pressure medicine?

She said: Well, Doc, in the recession, I lost my job. I lost my health insurance coverage. I couldn't get the medications.

And then she said: But you know what? With the Affordable Care Act with Covered California, I was able to get health insurance again. I was able to come in and see you.

It wasn't too late for this patient. My wife was able to get her back on her medications, get her back on her blood pressure medicine, get her blood pressure and diabetes under control, and, hopefully, there is no permanent damage.

But if we do harm and repeal the Affordable Care Act, we are going to do irreparable damage to 20 million and more Americans who are just like this patient, who need their health care covered, who need their access to medications. That is what this is about.

Mr. Speaker, let's do what we are trained to do as physicians and what this body should do. Let's do good by making sure people have better coverage, affordable coverage, and better access to health care. Let's definitely make sure we do not do any harm by repealing the Affordable Care Act. Let's make sure we fix it and make it better.

STATE SPONSORS OF TERROR REVIEW ENHANCEMENT ACT—115TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. YOH. Mr. Speaker, today I will reintroduce my bill, the State Sponsors of Terrorism Review Enhancement Act. This legislation passed the full House last Congress unanimously. I hope this Chamber will once again take up this commonsense legislation and pass it as soon as possible.

The designation of a foreign government as a "State Sponsor of Terrorism" is one of the United States' most powerful statements that we can give on another statement.

Besides imposing sanctions, the stamp of "State Sponsor of Terrorism" labels a state untouchable to the international community.

□ 1030

This pariah status is much deserved as these are states that support the killing of innocent people as a matter of policy.

Under current law, in order for a state to be delisted, the President of the United States only needs to certify that the country being considered for delisting has not engaged in supporting terrorism for a paltry 6 months. We are

talking 6 months to be delisted. Considering the heinous acts of violence these countries have supported in the past, we should not be allowing them to be delisted after only 6 months.

To address this, my legislation will—and, again, it passed last Congress unanimously—quadruple the time a designated country must refrain from sponsoring terrorism, before the President can remove it from the sponsor list, from 6 to 24 months; increase congressional oversight by doubling the time Congress has to review the President's proposed removal from 45 to 90 days; establish a uniform process through which Congress can disapprove of the President's decision to remove a country from that list; and require the administration to notify and brief Congress upon initiating a review of a designated country's potential removal from the list.

This legislation will assert congressional scrutiny and oversight and hopefully bring to an end politically motivated delistings. Successful administrations—both Republican and Democrat alike—delisted countries based on their presidency's legacy rather than the facts. This will stop absurd delistings like that of North Korea in 2008.

North Korea was delisted in exchange for their promises of dismantling their nuclear program. However, 9 years and 5 nuclear tests later, they remain off the list. This rescission from the list has enabled North Korea to engage in supporting terrorism abroad. By increasing the amount of time for a state to not be engaged in terrorism and increasing congressional oversight and scrutiny, my legislation will not allow mistakes such as this delisting of North Korea's to take place.

I want to remind people that this passed unanimously, and we hope that we will get the support again.

SECRETARY OF EDUCATION NOMINEE BETSY DEVOS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor today to join my colleagues from the great State of Ohio. I come here because we have a statement that we want to make to voice to not only the citizens of Ohio but to this great country.

I am honored to join Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR and Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, two women who have been in the battle for our citizens, but, more importantly, for our students, for education, and for our teachers.

So today, Mr. Speaker, I demand that Betsy DeVos, President-elect Trump's nominee for Secretary of Education, repay the \$5.3 million—yes, Mr. Speaker, I am going to say that again—\$5.3 million in fines owed by her political action committee, All Children Matter, to my home State of Ohio.